

Command Philosophy

1. The following are my thoughts and goals for our station. We are a team. Each person is just as important as the next. Without an Officer in Charge a unit would lose a key roll in leadership. Without Seaman or Fireman, a unit would not be able to accomplish all of the tasks assigned.

WE ARE A TEAM.

2. This being said I believe in the chain of command. Everyone has one, and when used, a unit will operate efficiently and effectively. When the chain of command is compromised a unit will begin to fall apart. As a team we will work together toward the following goals which I will touch on later: we will be safe; we will be highly trained, our assets will be clean and always ready, we will be professional, we will show pride in how we operate and how we conduct ourselves, we will be well rested knowing that the bell may ring at any moment, and we will always remember those who have supported our efforts to get us where we are today.

3. My goals as your leader, mentor and supervisor:

- a. **SAFETY:** Safety is of the utmost importance. Everything we do will be preformed in the safest most proficient manner. Although we work in an extremely hazardous environment we can still protect ourselves and our shipmates. You as an individual come first, and then your teammates. I encourage you to be outspoken, and voice your concerns in every situation you deem unsafe.
 - b. **TRAINING:** Without a highly trained crew there is no way to ensure safety. We will train on a regular basis, forming good communication skills and always improving. You are responsible for your own abilities and proficiencies. I will ensure that the training program is current and that you as a team have every opportunity to maintain the certification that you possess, obtain higher levels of competencies, and are equipped to mentor those who are striving for the certification you may hold.
 - c. **ASSETS:** Our station and our station's resources **WILL BE MAINTAINED**. An asset that is not maintained is a safety hazard and will hurt someone. If a resource is not clean it is difficult to tell if something is broken. If something is broken, it gets fixed. If you can not fix it we will work together as a team to find someone who can fix it. If it is not fixable it will be replaced. We will not use equipment that is not working properly.
 - d. **PROFESSIONALISM:** I will serve as your example. I expect you to take pride in your professionalism. There should never be a reason for you to *lose your cool* in front of the public or your subordinates. Always conduct yourself as if you are a professional Coast Guardsman, because you are!
 - e. **PRIDE:** Take pride in how you operate and act. You are a sailor be proud of what you have accomplished. Never allow anyone to degrade the fact that you are part of a team, the United States Coast Guard. Give your best effort and be proud and I promise I will give you my best effort and I will always show my pride.
 - f. **LEAVE AND LIBERTY:** I understand that our jobs are difficult and that you need time away to rest and rejuvenate. I will ensure that your liberty time is maximized and that your duty time is only what is operationally necessary. You will be granted leave whenever operations permit, remember when you are gone someone is here doing your job. I expect you to always be rested when you arrive for duty. The bell may go off at any moment.
 - g. **FAMILY:** Chances are you didn't get where you are by yourself. You probably had some support. For most of us our family has been that support. I know that my family comes first in my life and assume that yours comes first in your life. I would expect nothing else. You need to ensure that your family is healthy both physically and emotionally, if they aren't we do what we can to get them healthy. When your family is healthy you will be healthy and that will keep you and your team safe when operations get risky.
4. These things I have mentioned are by no means inclusive, nor are they meant to be. This philosophy is a simple way for you to know what is most important to me. These things will inevitably change over time and when they do I will let you know though policy. In the mean time remember if you don't know or are unsure, ask. I want everyone at this unit and their family members to enjoy their tour here.

Corbin J. Ross